



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights – Friday - September 29, 2006**

- ***In the West***, very warm, dry weather is promoting fieldwork, including winter wheat planting. However, most ***Northwestern*** winter grains need rain to ensure proper autumn crop establishment.
- ***On the Plains***, cool conditions across ***eastern portions of the region*** contrast with a return to warm weather farther west. Dry weather favors fieldwork and winter wheat emergence, but more rain will be needed in upcoming weeks to promote wheat establishment and sustain drought recovery for pastures.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, mostly dry weather favors a limited return to fieldwork. In many areas, however, wet soils are slowing summer crop harvesting and other fieldwork. In particular, soggy fields in the ***Ohio Valley*** are impeding early-season winter wheat planting.
- ***In the South***, mild, dry weather is promoting summer crop dry down and harvesting. However, pockets of excessive wetness persist, particularly in the ***Tennessee Valley*** and environs, in the wake of recent heavy rain.

**Outlook:** Showers and thunderstorms will end later today in the ***northern Atlantic States***, while cool air will continue to expand across the ***eastern half of the U.S.*** During the weekend, another cold front and its attendant showers will cross the ***Great Lakes and Northeastern States***. Farther west, warm, mostly dry weather currently affecting areas from the ***West Coast to the High Plains*** will gradually spread eastward. By early next week, mild, dry conditions across the majority of the U.S. will favor summer crop maturation and autumn fieldwork. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 4-8 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures from the ***Plains to the East Coast***. Warm weather will be most likely in the ***lower Mississippi Valley***, while cooler-than-normal conditions will prevail in most areas ***west of the Rockies***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions will affect the ***Pacific Northwest*** and most of the ***Atlantic and Gulf Coast States***, but wet weather will prevail in a broad area from the ***Four Corners States to the Great Lakes region***, including much of the ***Plains***.

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.PDF>